

not just his colleagues in my Washington office, but the district-based staff in Fort Worth as well. Aaron will be missed for his work, but even more for his presence as a colleague.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I offer Aaron a heartfelt thank you and best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND RELATED AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR SUCH COURTS AND AGENCIES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would exempt from federal government shutdowns the federal and independent civil and criminal justice system law enforcement agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have exclusive jurisdiction over District of Columbia matters. This bill is modeled on a provision I have been able to get enacted each year since the 2013 federal government shutdown to exempt the D.C. government from federal government shutdowns.

This bill would exempt the following agencies from federal government shutdowns: Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for D.C., D.C. Courts, D.C. Public Defender Service, D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. With one exception, these agencies are not under the District's control and are funded exclusively by the federal government. The D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is an independent agency within the D.C. government with federal members that is primarily, but not exclusively, funded by the federal government. These agencies provide critical local services to the District, including law enforcement, and should continue to function during a federal government shutdown.

Each of these agencies has been adversely affected by federal government shutdowns, including canceled services and furloughed employees. My bill would allow these agencies to continue to function during a federal government shutdown, in much the same way that the D.C. government itself is now exempt from shutting down during a federal government shutdown. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING MR. SOHUM PAWAR

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to evacuate vulnerable Afghans during the fall of Kabul, Mr. Sohumi Pawar.

Originally from East Hanover, New Jersey, for many years, Mr. Pawar has worn many hats—scientist, engineer, and policy researcher. Since graduating with honors from little-known schools such as Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he's worked on cybersecurity, climate, and energy policy at the White House, assisted negotiators at the U.S. Department of State working on UN climate talks, and written speeches for the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Beyond public service, he's also worked as a cyber threat intelligence analyst, assessed clean energy startups for a climate-focused venture capital fund, and developed policy and strategy for an advanced nuclear reactor startup. He also has experience in journalism, conducting research for David Sanger, the prominent national journalist for the New York Times and his bestselling book chronicling the rise of cyber warfare.

The knowledge and experience Mr. Pawar acquired in all of these ventures were heavily relied upon when he joined our cobbled-together effort working to evacuate vulnerable Afghans from Kabul. For several sleepless nights, he was part of our tiger team—responsible for gathering the required information for the group of Afghans, verifying the authenticity of documents, and supporting evacuees with letters of support of our own.

Our mission depended on a broad cross-section of skills and traits, from perseverance to grit. Very few people could have handled the flood of information that our office received during those frantic days, and even fewer as quickly and efficiently as Sohumi did. We needed Pawar's to succeed, and it is thanks to him that we did.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Sohumi Pawar for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul. For his meticulous record keeping, for his flexibility and perseverance, and for his dogged pursuit of any lead that would benefit the mission, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING RAVI S. PATEL

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ravi Patel, a valued member of our effort to evacuate Afghan nationals from Kabul to Tirana, Albania.

Mr. Patel has worked in several areas for several key players in the international arena, working as an advisor to former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry as well as serving as the consulting advisor for the executive director of the UN's Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. As a graduate student, he was the executive director of the Stanford University U.S.-Russia Forum, where he put on conferences, in Moscow and on Stanford's campus, in order to bring together students and young leaders from both countries and further the bilateral relationship.

Mr. Patel has always believed in the power of thinking outside the box to find solutions.

The buses that he sourced were ultimately used to carry more than 100 individuals to safety in their hour of greatest need. As they made it through winding Kabul streets until they made it inside the gate at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Mr. Patel was in close coordination with our team. He was Lt. Gen. McMaster's point person on our joint effort to evacuate them on a flight out of Kabul as well, helping to compile the flight manifest that airlifted men, women, and children—some as young as 2 years old—away from danger.

In fact, when one of our evacuees, a four-year old with a severe congenital heart defect, needed urgent medical attention, Mr. Patel sprang into action. He gathered letters of support from some of the top pediatric doctors and surgeons in order to bring her to the U.S. for treatment. Thanks to his relentless pursuit chasing down leads through every available channel, the little girl and her family were granted humanitarian parole and admitted to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Ravi Patel for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his resourcefulness amidst the fog of uncertainty and the chaos of the evacuation as well as for his tireless work in the weeks since, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR WILMA CHAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, alongside Representative JUDY CHU, to honor the life of the late Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, who tragically passed on November 3, 2021. We extend our deepest condolences to her children, grandchildren, family, staff, and loved ones, and to the people of Alameda County who she served so well during her 30-year career in public service.

Supervisor Chan was born in Boston, MA, after her parents immigrated there from China. She attended public schools and went on to receive her bachelor's degree in history from Wellesley College and her master's degree in education policy from Stanford University.

She was a trailblazer throughout her career. She was the first Asian American to serve on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, to which she was elected in 1994, and later became the first Asian American and first woman to hold the position of Majority Leader in the California State Assembly, where she represented the East Bay from 2000 to 2006. In 2010, voters reelected her to the Alameda Board of Supervisors, where she continued to serve until her tragic death.

Supervisor Chan's unyielding commitment to the wellbeing of children, families, and her most vulnerable constituents prevailed throughout her legislative career. During her tenure in the State Assembly, she authored groundbreaking legislation that successfully made California the first state to ban toxic flame retardants, which resulted in a significant decrease in how often those chemicals

are detected in women's breast milk. During her time on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, she brokered a crucial deal to stop the San Leandro Hospital from closing, effectively saving jobs, keeping an emergency department running, and strengthening our community's healthcare infrastructure.

Supervisor Chan was a great leader for the East Bay and the entire state, a consummate public servant, and a true friend. She embodied service, uplifted the vulnerable, and used her platform for the betterment of all. She said, "My goal is really to make sure that children and families have everything that they need to be successful and to have a good quality of life." That is the precise sentiment by which she served and lived.

In her memory, let us continue the fight to remove systemic barriers and hurdles so that all members of our community can thrive and flourish. Supervisor Chan's legacy should continue to inspire us to keep up the work for justice and equality to which she dedicated her life.

As California Members of Congress, we thank Wilma for her service and honor her as an ardent champion for healthcare, education, children, seniors, and justice in our community. May Wilma's soul rest in peace and in power, and may her great legacy be a reminder of the work for justice and equality that remains. May we always honor Supervisor Chan, by taking the baton and rising to the occasion, as she so lovingly did, in service to her fellow human beings.

On behalf of the 13th Congressional District of California, I honor Supervisor Wilma Chan for her service and dedication.

HONORING DAVE KILCULLEN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a former soldier and diplomat, and now author and scholar, Mr. David Kilcullen.

For both his homeland, Australia, and for the United States, Mr. Kilcullen has enjoyed a long career in national security and counter-insurgency. After commissioning as a lieutenant with the Australian Army, he would go on to serve in a number of operational, strategic, command, and staff positions both in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and Australian Defence Force. In 2005, after leaving active duty, he began working with our State Department in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism.

Working in the field led Mr. Kilcullen to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia, and he would ultimately assist with the drafting of Army's Field Manual on counter-insurgency. He advised senior officials, from General David Petraeus to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to NATO headquarters, on addressing the threat posed by insurgencies and guerilla warfare. He's both a brilliant thought-leader as well as a man of action who supports aid agencies, non-government organizations, and local communities in conflict and disaster-affected regions around the world.

Simply put, Madam Speaker, Mr. Kilcullen's expertise is second to none, and when I need-

ed a trusted partner for a mission as complex as the evacuation of Afghan allies from Kabul, he was exactly the right person at the right time to pull it off. He personifies the Aussie notion of "mateship," that unbreakable bond of friendship, loyalty, and shared purpose.

Without Dave's help, I'm not sure we would have been able to wrangle the caravan of buses and make sure they made it safely through the wire. When we were in the thick of it, we relied on his expertise and his determination, and only because of both were we able to prevent our Afghan allies—and the lives of so many others—from being lost.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Dave Kilcullen for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his unique ability to think outside the box to obtain safe passage for vulnerable Afghans and for his calm demeanor and resourcefulness in the midst of chaos and uncertainty, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING AMERICAN HEROES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, 2021 will tragically be remembered for the murders at Kabul International Airport of American Heroes:

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas;

Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole Gee, 23, of Sacramento, California;

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah;

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee;

Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, California;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum, 20, Jackson, Wyoming;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui, 20, of Norco, California;

Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan Page, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska;

Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, Lawrence, Massachusetts;

Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto Sanchez, 22, Logansport, Indiana;

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Missouri; and

Navy Hospitalman Maxton Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio.

As a military parent of four sons who have served overseas, I cannot imagine what their grief-stricken families are going through during this Christmas season.

The decision of the President and the Vice-President in April to abandon the people of Afghanistan and appease the Taliban/AI-Qaeda terrorists led to the deaths of these American Heroes.

Sadly, this most catastrophic course of action will clearly shift terrorist suicide bombers from the Afghanistan safe haven to American neighborhoods.

The Global War on Terrorism continues with murderous attacks in New Zealand, Norway,

the United Kingdom, Uganda, Israel, and at Afghan Mosques.

The Democrat elite think they are smarter than everyone, and think Democrat voters and Democrat media are ignorant to believe that "the United States ended 20 years of war." They will gruesomely discover that now the targets are here at home.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

HONORING JESSICA GARRELS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team who helped us identify—and eventually evacuate—vulnerable Afghans after the fall of Kabul, Ms. Jessica Garrels of Michigan State University.

For nearly a decade, Ms. Garrels has worked in project management, including direct oversight and implementation of humanitarian assistance programs. Through her work, she's helped vulnerable communities around the world—growing their institutional and human capacity, building resilience, and expanding school nutrition and education initiatives. Community organizing is ingrained in Ms. Garrels' DNA—she's also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, a director with the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, and senior manager with Catholic Relief Services in places like Burkina Faso, Mali, and Laos.

It's this knack for finding solutions that led her to play such a key role in our mission to evacuate Afghans affiliated with Michigan State University when Kabul fell to the Taliban. In early August, she was part of the team that submitted initial visa applications for staff and scholars associated with the university's Grain Research and Innovation (GRAIN) program. However, when the evacuation window shrunk from a few months to a matter of days, she sprang into action. With desperate pleas for help flooding her inbox, she turned them into an outreach campaign to contact Members of Congress and anyone else who could help.

Thankfully, Ms. Garrels was able to join our ragtag effort—whereupon she immediately set out to gather critical information from GRAIN scientists and their immediate families. When our group of evacuees made it onto a caravan of buses and began their perilous journey to safety, Ms. Garrels worked around the clock to handle bureaucratic obstacles as they came up. I have no doubt that thanks to her quick and efficient response, lives were saved that would have otherwise been lost.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Jessica Garrels for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her skill in handling logistical challenges as they came up and for fast-tracking the requests for funding that allowed vulnerable MSU-affiliated Afghans to make it on the flight, I submit these words—